

IN THE CLAIMS:

1. (Currently amended) A method of processing rich media content, comprising the steps of:

- a) combining a plurality of diverse rich media content into a single ~~creating a multimedia content file from rich media content for use~~ as a first input to an authoring tool;
- b) creating an extensible markup language (XML) based textual specification ~~a text based rich media content description file for use~~ as a second input to the authoring tool, wherein the ~~description file~~ XML-based textual specification comprises a user-specified vocabulary that defines one or more of the plurality of diverse rich media content and relationships between two or more of the plurality of diverse rich media content ~~allowing a user to format the multimedia content file~~; and
- c) combining the single multimedia content file and the ~~text based description file~~ XML-based textual specification in accordance with the user-specified vocabulary ~~to create a composed file and~~ using the authoring tool to create a composed multimedia content file for execution on a multimedia player.

2. (Currently amended) The method of Claim 1 further comprising the step of:

- d) editing the ~~rich media content description file~~ XML-based textual specification by a user using a text editor.

3. (Currently amended) The method of Claim 1 wherein the step of creating ~~a text based rich media content description file~~ an XML-based textual specification further comprises the step of:

- e) using an Extensible Markup Language (XML) XML program to create the ~~description file~~ XML-based textual specification.

4. (Currently amended) The method of Claim 1 wherein the step of combining ~~the description file and the~~ single multimedia content file ~~and the XML-based textual specification~~ further comprises the step of:

f) executing a batch processing program to combine ~~the description file~~ and the single multimedia content file and the XML-based textual specification.

5. (Currently amended) The method of Claim 1 further comprising the step of:

g) transmitting the plurality of diverse rich media content as a streaming digital file.

6. (Currently amended) The method of Claim 1 further comprising the steps of:

h) using a graphical authoring tool to edit the plurality of diverse rich media content; and

i) creating a description file of the graphically edited rich media content.

7. (Currently amended) The method of Claim 1 further comprising the step of:

j) storing the composed multimedia content file and the ~~description file~~ XML-based textual specification for access by one or more content creators.

8. (Currently amended) The method of Claim 1 further comprising the step of:

k) downloading the composed multimedia content file for display to a user in an application.

9. (Currently amended) The method of Claim 5 wherein the step of transmitting the plurality of diverse rich media content as a streaming digital file further comprises the step of:

l) generating the streaming digital file as a sequence of frames.

10. (Currently amended) The method of Claim 5 wherein the step of transmitting the plurality of diverse rich media content as a streaming digital file further comprises the step of:

m) generating the streaming digital file as a binary file using a HotMedia format.

11. (Currently Amended) An authoring system for creating text based rich media, comprising:

a) a processor for receiving a plurality of diverse rich media;

b) means for assembling the plurality of diverse rich media as a combined multimedia vehicle repository (MVR) file; and

c) means for automatically generating ~~a rich media content description file~~ an XML-based textual specification comprising a user-specified vocabulary that defines one or more of the plurality of diverse the rich media and relationships between two or more of the plurality of diverse the rich media ~~allowing a user to format the multimedia content file~~; and

d) means for combining the MVR file and the ~~description file~~ XML-based textual specification in accordance with the user-specified vocabulary to create an edited MVR file for execution on a multimedia player.

12. (Currently amended) The apparatus of Claim 11 further comprising:

e) a batch processing program running on the processor for combining the combined MVR file and the ~~description file~~ XML-based textual specification as an edited MVR file.

13. (Currently amended) The apparatus of Claim 11 further comprising:

f) an ~~Extensible Markup Language (XML)~~ XML program running in the processor for translating descriptive text in combining the MVR file and the ~~description file~~ XML-based textual specification.

14. (Currently amended) A system for creating a textual based rich media content file as an application executable on a multimedia player, comprising:

a) means for receiving, combining and storing a plurality of diverse rich media assets in a binary format as a single multimedia vehicle repository (MVR) file;

b) means for preparing ~~a~~ an XML-based textual description specification of the single MVR file comprising a user-specified vocabulary that defines ~~the~~ one or more of the plurality of diverse rich media assets and relationships between two or more of the plurality of diverse the rich media assets ~~allowing a user to format the multimedia content file~~; and

c) means for combining the MVR file and the ~~MVR XML-based textual description specification~~ in accordance with the user-specified vocabulary to create an edited MVR file executable on a multimedia player as an application.

15. (Canceled)

16. (Currently amended) The system of Claim 14 further comprising:

d) means for modifying the ~~textual description~~ XML-based textual specification to create a new MVR-XML based file.

17. (Currently amended) The system of Claim 14 further comprising:

e) means for modifying the ~~textual description~~ XML-based textual specification using a text-editing tool.

18. (Currently amended) A program medium executable on a computer system, comprising:

a) program code in the medium combining a plurality of diverse rich media content into a single ~~creating a multimedia content file from rich media content~~ as a first input to an authoring tool;

b) program code in the medium creating an XML-based textual specification ~~a text based rich media content description file for use~~ as a second input to the authoring tool, wherein the ~~description file~~ XML-based textual specification comprises a user-specified vocabulary that defines one or more of the plurality of diverse ~~the rich media content~~ and relationships between two or more of the plurality of diverse ~~the rich media content~~ allowing a user to format the multimedia content file; and

c) program code in the medium combining the single ~~rich media content~~ and the ~~text based rich media content description file~~ XML-based textual specification in accordance with the user-specified vocabulary ~~to create an edited multimedia content file~~ and using the authoring tool ~~to create a composed multimedia content file~~ for execution on a multimedia player.

19. (Currently amended) The program medium of Claim 18 further comprising:
- d) program code in the medium enabling the editing of the ~~rich media content~~ description file XML-based textual specification by a user using a text editor.
20. (Canceled)
21. (Currently amended) The program medium of Claim 18 further comprising:
- f) program code in the medium as a batch processing program for combining the description file XML-based textual specification and the ~~rich media~~ single multimedia content file.
22. (Currently amended) The program medium of Claim 18 further comprising:
- g) program code in the medium for transmitting the plurality of diverse rich media content as a streaming digital file.
23. (Currently amended) The program medium of Claim 18 further comprising:
- h) program code in the medium as a graphical authoring tool to edit the plurality of diverse rich media content; and
 - i) program code in the medium for creating a description file of the graphically edited rich media content.
24. (Currently amended) The program medium of Claim 18 further comprising:
- j) program code in the medium storing the ~~edited~~ composed multimedia content file and the description file XML-based textual specification for access by one or more content creators.
25. (Currently amended) The program medium of Claim 18 further comprising:
- k) program code in the medium for downloading the ~~edited~~ composed multimedia content file for display to a user in an ebusiness application.

26. (Original) The program medium of Claim 22 further comprising:

1) program code in the medium for generating the streaming digital file as a sequence of frames.

27. (Original) The program medium of Claim 22 further comprises:

m) program code in the medium for generating the streaming digital file as a binary file in a HotMedia format.

28. (Canceled)